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SATURDAY 28 JUNE 1997

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A very warm welcome

to Terry Venables and his Socceroos. There is a great deal of excitement when New Zealand plays Australia in any sport and a World Cup challenge generates even more excitement. We are conscious that Terry Venables comes to Auckland with a very professional team and I am confident that we will have a large turnout at today's match to see what will be a highlight for the game in this country.

I am confident that the large crowd will find the atmosphere at Albany Stadium to be up to the best of international standards and that the contest between the two sides will be exhilarating. The first two games against Papua New Guinea and Fiji were exciting contests and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

My congratulations to Joe McGrath and the All Whites squad for their achievements to date. Today's game will be a real challenge however I am sure that the All Whites are ready and capable on the day of causing an upset.

The challenge is no greater than in 1981 and 1989 with that memorable win in 1981 taking us through to Spain in 1982. The achievements of the under 17 team in Christchurch on Anzac Day will motivate the All Whites to rise to the occasion.

My best wishes go to both teams and the officials for a successful outcome.

R McG (JOCK) IRVINE
CHAIRMAN

McGrath has sights on World Cup and beyond

by jeremy ruane

The gaze of the New Zealand sporting public, soccer-wise, is currently focused on the performances of the All Whites, as they bid to qualify for the World Cup Finals for just the second time in their history.

There is clearly plenty of interest from local followers, if crowds attending the two games played at North Harbour Stadium are anything to go by. The delayed kick-offs against Papua New Guinea and Fiji were caused by unexpected high attendances numbering 10,500 and 13,000 respectively.

No doubt the appearance of Wynton Rufer on home turf for the first time in ages bolstered these figures. But when the most successful footballer in the country's history eventually hangs up his boots, on whom will soccer fans turn their attentions?

National Coach, Joe McGrath, has some ideas on the subject, as he embarks on a five year plan for New Zealand soccer, a plan which has already been bolstered by the qualification of the Junior All Whites for the Under-17 World Cup finals in Egypt in September.

France '98 is currently the leading item on the soft-spoken Irishman's agenda, but McGrath is not limiting his horizons. "I'm looking to build for the future. Obviously we don't want to be disgraced in the World Cup, and we're going to do our best to beat Australia, but long-term, we're trying to build an international team that will be respected".

"The average age of the All Whites is 24. It doesn't sound very young, but by international standards, where the average age is 28-29, it is extremely so. If you were to take away Michael McGarry and Chris Jackson from the line-up we fielded against the All Stars in Auckland recently, it drops to around the 21-22 mark".

"With more international experience, a number of players are going to surprise a lot of people. But it's important to get these younger players, including the Under-17s and the Under-20s, playing in the National League early in their careers and gaining from the experiences to be learned in that competition".

The benefits are already being seen in the likes of Gareth Rowe, Noah Hickey - he's still only 18, and Riki Van Steeden, a strong, aggressive 20 year-old midfielder who I think you'll see a lot of in the years to come".

Given the potential of these players, and others who have already made the breakthrough, plus those about to come through, McGrath's goal of establishing an All Whites side that will be respected on the international stage is one that is well within New Zealand soccer's capabilities.

A pleasant surprise as All Whites score seven

There was a pleasant surprise for the All Whites as Papua New Guinea succumbed 7-0 at North Harbour Stadium on June 11 - they were forced to wait before they could get on with the job, due to a crowd of three times the expected 3,500 turning up at the new stadium to witness the national side's first World Cup qualifier on home turf in four years.

Many of the masses were youngsters, and the man tomorrow's stars primarily came to see did not disappoint them. Wynton Rufer orchestrated proceedings in a manner full befitting the professional he is. The Papua New Guineans stood in awe of the Kaiserslautern midfielder throughout the match, which resulted in Rufer being given copious amounts of space in which to direct operations. The first five minutes saw three strikes on goal emanating from the 34-year-old, none of which unfortunately, found the target.

He did have a hand, or rather a head, in the first goal, flicking Tim Steven's tenth minute corner down to Ivan Vicelich. He drilled the ball hard and low into the danger zone, where Vaughan Coveny deftly flicked the ball into the far corner with the inside of his right heel.

Three minutes later, Coveny struck again, a more orthodox effort but every bit as devastating. Willie Bera, PNG's goalkeeper, barely got his fingertips to the striker's rasping twenty-five yard drive which sizzled into the net to give the All Whites a firm grip on their own destiny.

Chris Jackson twice went close before the moment the throngs had gathered for - a goal from the prodigal son. High he rose in the 23rd minute to meet another pinpoint Simon Elliott cross, and Bera was left clutching air as the ball found the net from Rufer's head.

The 'keeper was clawing at the elements again eight minutes later, as Rufer unleashed a top-notch free-kick from twenty yards around the wall and into the net beside the upright for his second. Anything looked possible for the All Whites now, so on song were they. Plenty of movement, quality passing by and large... Joe McGrath was well pleased with things, and rightly so.

Central to much of what was good was Elliott. On the left flank, he was inspirational. Tormenting his markers with gay abandon, and crossing with accuracy aplenty, his was a supply line which delivered quality in great quantity. It was fitting that he should crown his game with a goal, and he duly struck five minutes before the interval.

The inspiration of this goal was Stevens. He got through a power of work on the right flank to create the chance in the first place, and was in the process of repeating the dose a minute from the break when he was crudely cut down in full flight by Duri Yarawi. Australian referee Edward Lennie saw no offence, and in ignoring the All Whites claims for a clear-cut penalty, recorded his one blemish of the evening.

Rufer volleyed over just before the interval, while Elliott repeated the dose just after it. Then Bera earned his keep, twice at Coveny's expense, as the All Whites pressed for a sixth goal to maintain their first half momentum.

Elliott's tantalising cross did everything but to go in, Bera being beaten all ends up by a swerving effort which dropped against the crossbar in the 58th minute. Peter Paliwa was quickly in to clear the danger, but was a mere spectator four minutes later.

Kenny Harlock, introduced to the fray at the expense of an unusually ordinary Michael McGarry, looked to crown his international debut with a goal just six minutes after coming on. But his twenty-yard screamer flashed past the upright, much to the relief of Bera and friends.

A sixth goal had to come, and Coveny was the chief celebrant, pinching a hat trick off Rufer with a powerful close-range finish in the 68th minute which gave the well-performed Bera no chance.

Opportunities continued to fall the All Whites way, many to Stevens. But while his abilities as a creator of scoring chances can't be doubted, his finishing abilities deserted him on his night until nine minutes from time, when a stunning two-pass move saw Mark Atkinson and Darren McClennan combining to send the National League's leading marksman scampering away. Stevens took what was probably his most difficult chance with all the aplomb of a veteran, and in so doing completed the scoring-7-0. Now for Fiji.

All Whites advance on back of nap hand

The All Whites advanced to the next phase of the Oceania World Cup qualifiers on June 18 with a 5-0 triumph over Fiji who, for almost an hour, didn't make life easy for the home side, despite rarely testing Jason Batty.

After Tim Stevens and Easla Mainisau had exchanged efforts inside the first five minutes, and both Wynton Rufer and Vaughan Coveny had also gone close, the game's first controversial incident came to pass, in the twelfth minute. Isikeli Sevanaia, Fiji's goalkeeper, handled the ball outside his penalty area in saving at Coveny's feet. That he saved Rufer's resulting free-kick extremely well isn't in doubt; that he should have been on the park to do so is.

Rufer sent Stevens through on the quarter hour, and Coveny duly slipped his striking partner's low cross home. But the ball had crossed the dead-ball line before Stevens had wrapped his foot around it, and the goal was disallowed, to the dismay of 13,000 spectators, the late arrival of many of whom resulted in a significant delay to the start-time.

The prodigal son of New Zealand soccer showed his team-mates the way in the eighteenth minute. A feint, a dummy, then a lethal left-foot screamer from twenty yards which arrowed into the net. Vintage Rufer.

Not to be outdone, Fiji hit back with some attacks of their own, with Ramulo Kaibau and Rament Dutt going close, the latter forcing a fingertip save from Batty. In between times, Chris Jackson turned defense into attack on the edge of his own penalty area with a splendid fifty yard pass which dropped perfectly into Coveny's stride. On he ran before unselfishly squaring for Stevens, who was denied by Kaibau and Sevanaia.

Mark Atkinson sparked a 35th minute raid which, with Rufer's aid, allowed Simon Elliott to release Coveny. Masinisau blocked his shot, however and the All Whites went to the break a goal to the good, although they had Batty to thank for that, the keeper parrying superbly after Kameli Kilaiwaoa had broken through at pace.

The All Whites second half display was more controlled, their passing more accurate, as they overcame their plucky opponents. But one of the less savory incidents in clashes between the nations certainly helped them.

Jackson and Stevens had gone close to extending the All Whites lead before a 54th minute attack saw Atkinson weave some magic to beat three defenders before crossing the ball. Coveny inadvertently blocked, thus allowing Atkinson another go. This time he found Stevens at point-blank range, but Sevanaia somehow kept it out. He and Stevens collided as they contested the loose ball, which the 'keeper grabbed as a brief tussle broke out.

Incensed by what he saw as an attack on his team-mate, Fijian fullback Jope Lomu hurtled onto the scene with a burst of speed his namesake Jonah would be proud of. But the 'other code' rep would not have been proud of Lomu's next act, which saw Stevens hit the deck as if pole-axed, much to everyone's astonishment.

Raveino quickly settled things down as tempers flared, and he handled things superbly. Stevens recuperation time helped greatly in the restoration of order, with the All White being booked for his challenge on the goalkeeper. For Lomu and Fiji the punishment was more severe - ten men for the remainder.

The extra space Lomu's enforced absence created was all New Zealand needed to take full control of the match. And in the 66th minute, they made certain of a safe passage through to round three with super goal. Some inspired off-the-ball running by Atkinson was rewarded by a perceptive pass from Rufer. The man-of-the-match crossed low for Coveny, who slipped the ball across Sevanaia and inside the far post - 2-0.

It was virtually one-way traffic from here on in, as Sevanaia worked overtime. Thrice he denied Coveny, while substitutes Noah Hickey and Nik Viljoen were also foiled, the latter twice. Further goals were inevitable and duly came. Rufer struck his second, New Zealand's third, in the 74th minute, punishing a defensive blunder with the minimum of fuss. Then it was Viljoen's turn six minutes later, a near post header of a teasing Elliott cross finding the net with laser-like accuracy.

The last goal of the night struck five minutes from time never looked likely initially, but Elliott's gallant pursuit of a seemingly lost cause saw him gain possession ahead of his tiring Fijian opponent. His pass, after cutting into the penalty area, picked out Riki Van Steeden, who steered the ball home to set the nation's thoughts towards June 28, and a long-awaited clash with 'El Tel's Army', Australia.

PROFILING THE ALL WHITES

MARK **ATKINSON**
16.2.70
MIDFIELD
1.77M
78KG
CAPS 4
CENTRAL UNITED

jason **BATTY**
23.3.71
goalkeeper
1.80m
76kg
CAPS 26
albuquerque geckos

RODGER **GRAY**
6.5.66
DEFENDER
1.90M
85KG
CAPS 52
WAITAKERE CITY

VAUGHAN **COVENY**
13.12.71
STRIKER
1.85M
90KG
CAPS 39
SOUTH MELBOURNE

ken **HARLOCK**
16.2.70
midfield
1.78m
78kg
CAPS 1
waitakere city

NEIL **HARLOCK**
29.5.75
DEFENDER
1.84M
82KG
CAPS 13
WOOLLONGONG

danny **HAY**
15.5.75
defender
1.90m
87kg
CAPS 8
central united

CHRIS **JACKSON**
18.7.70
MIDFIELD
1.80M
76KG
CAPS 29
TAMPINES ROVERS FC

MARK **ELRICK**
7.4.67
MIDFIELD/STRIKER
1.60M
72KG
CAPS 22
CENTRAL UNITED

MICHAEL **MCGARRY**
17.5.65
MIDFIELD
1.78M
78KG
CAPS 84
MIRAMAR RANGERS

simon **ELLIOT**
10.6.74
midfield
1.81m
78kg
CAPS 28
miramar rangers

darren **McCLENNAN**
21.10.65
striker
1.83m
80kg
CAPS 53
waitakere city

GARETH **ROWE**
17.1.77
DEFENDER
1.82M
79KG
CAPS 2
NAPIER CITY ROVERS

noah **HICKEY**
9.6.78
midfield
1.75m
70kg
CAPS 2
central united

wynton **RUFER**
29.12.62
midfield
1.81m
79kg
CAPS 37
kaiserslautern ev

tim **STEVENS**
14.11.72
striker/midfield
1.80m
82kg
CAPS 6
north shore united

mark **PASTON**
13.12.76
goalkeeper
1.86m
79kg
CAPS 0
napier city rovers

nik **VILJOEN**
3.12.76
striker
1.80m
84kg
CAPS 8
waitakere city

ivan **VICELICH**
3.9.76
defender
1.90m
82kg
CAPS 6
central united

RIKI **VAN STEEDEN**
24.12.76
MIDFIELD
1.83M
79KG
CAPS 2
NELSON SUBURBS

gavin **WILKINSON**
5.11.73
midfield
1.82m
82kg
CAPS 8
perth glory

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HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP

ALL WHITES

COACH: JOE McGRATH

ASSISTANTS: KEN DUGDALE AND STEVE CAIN

WHITE SHIRT WHITE SHORTS WHITE SOCKS

1 JASON BATTY
2 NOAH HICKEY
3 NEIL HARLOCK
4 IVAN VICELICH
5 RODGER GRAY
6 GAVIN WILKINSON
7 WYNTON RUFER
8 MICHAEL McGARRY
9 NIK VILJOEN
10 CHRIS JACKSON
11 SIMON ELLIOTT
12 MARK ATKINSON
13 GARETH ROWE
14 TIM STEVENS
15 RIKI VAN STEEDEN
16 VAUGHAN COVENY
17 MARK ELRICK
18 KEN HARLOCK
19 DARREN McCLENNAN
20 DANNY HAY
22 MARK PASTON

REFEREES

OKADA MASAYOSHI (JAPAN)

ASSISTANTS: FUKUDA HIROSHI (JAPAN)
SURESH BEHARI (FIJI)
4TH OFFICIAL: MASSIMO RAVEINO (TAHITI)

AUSTRALIA

COACH : TERRY VENABLES

ASSISTANT: RAUL BLANCO

GOLD SHIRT, GREEN SHORTS, GREEN AND GOLD SOCKS

JOHN ALOISI
GRAHAM ARNOLD
MATTHEW BINGLEY
MARK BOSNICH
ROBERT ENES
CRAIG FOSTER
ROBBIE HOOKER
STEVE HORVAT
MILAN IVANOVIC
ZELKJO KALAC
STAN LAZARIDIS
CRAIG MOORE
DAMIAN MORI
KEVIN MUSCAT
JASON PETKOVIC
TONY POPOVIC
JOSIP SKOKO
ROBBIE SLATER
ERNI TAPAI
ALEX TOBIN
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI
PAUL TRIMBOLI
TONY VIDMAR
AURELIO VIDMAR
NED ZELIC

PLAYING NUMBERS FOR THE SOCCEROOS WERE UNAVAILABLE

AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRINT

KICK OFF 4.15 PM

SATURDAY 28 JUNE 1997

THE SOC

terry **VENABLES**
6.1.43
coach

1958 joins chelsea as apprentice 1960 signs as professional with the club plays 202 league games and scores 26 goals 1964 gains his two full england caps against belguim and holland 1965 league cup winners medal with chelsea 1966 transfers to tottenham hotspur for 80,000 pounds 1967 fa cup winners medal with the north london side 1976 appointed manager of crystal palace 1985 steers barcelona to first spanish league title in 11 years 1986 signs gary lineker and mark hughes 1987 appointed manager of tottenham hotspur 1988 signs paul gasgoine 1994 named england manager 1996 quits as manager following european championships chairman/ owner of portsmouth fc in the uk

john **ALOISI**
5.2.76
centre foward
caps 4
cremonese (italy)

kevin **MUSCAT**
7.8.73
defender/midfield
caps 10
crystal palace (england)

alex **TOBIN**
3.11.65
defender
caps 68
adelaide city

ned **ZELIC**
4.7.71
midfield/utility
caps 22
auxerre (france)

steve **HORVAT**
14.3.71
defender
caps 11
hadjuk split (croatia)

aurelio **VIDMAR**
3.2.67
midfield/
striker
caps 25
cd tenerife (spain)

ALOISI

jason **PETKOVIC**
7.12.72
goalkeeper
caps 4
adelaide city

graham **ARNOLD**
3.8.63
striker
caps 52
sanfrecce hiroshima (japan)

tony **VIDMAR**
4.7.70
defender
caps 28
glasgow rangers (scotland)

milan **IVANOVIC**
21.12.60
sweeper
caps 51
adelaide city

tony **POPOVIC**
4.7.73
defender
caps 20
sanfrecce hiroshima (japan)

kris **TRAJANOVSKI**
19.2.72
forward
caps 9
uts olympic

HORVAT

josip **SKOKO**
10.12.75
midfield
caps 3
hadjuk split (croatia)

zelkjo **KALAC**
16.12.72
goalkeeper
caps 24
sydney united

craig **MOORE**
12.12.75
defender/midfield
caps 4
glasgow rangers (scotland)

stan **LAZARIDIS**
16.8.72
defender/midfield
caps 17
west ham united (england)

paul **TRIMBOLI**
25.2.69
midfield/forward
caps 27
south melbourne

PETKOVIC

robbie **SLATER**
22.11.64
midfield
caps 21
southampton (eng)

robert **ENES**
22.8.75
midfield
caps 7
sydney united

matthew **BINGLEY**
16.8.71
midfield
caps 11
marconi fairfield

damian **MORI**
30.9.70
striker
caps 28
adelaide city

craig **FOSTER**
15.4.69
midfield
caps 10
marconi fairfield

mark **BOSNICH**
13.1.72
goalkeeper
caps 8
aston villa (england)

david **ZDRILIC**
13.4.74
striker
caps 3
sydney united

erni **TAPAI**
14.2.67
midfield/striker
caps 28
collingwood warriors

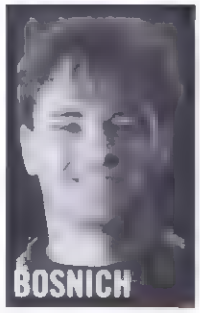
robbie **HOOKER**
6.3.67
sweeper
caps 18
west adelaide

TRIMBOLI

CCEROOS

ARNOLD

BINGLEY


BOSNICH

ENES

FOSTER

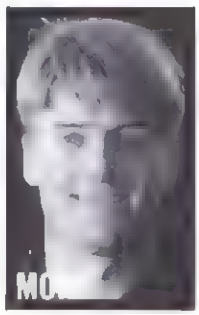
HOOKER

IVANOVIC

KALAC

LAZARIDIS

MOORE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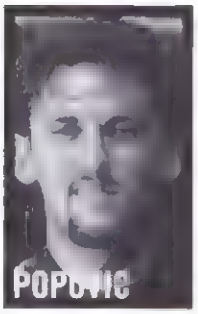
MUSCAT


POPOVIC

SKOKO

SLATER

TAPAI

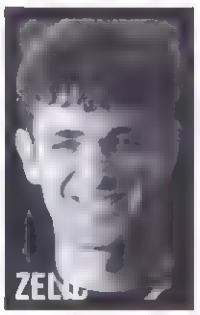
TOBIN

TRAJANOVSKI

T VIDMAR

A VIDMAR

ZDRILIC


ZELIC

VENABLES

BLANCO

OCEANIA ZONE WORLD CUP QUALIFYING RESULTS

round one

GROUP ONE WINNERS ADVANCE TO ROUND TWO, GROUP TWO, WHILE GROUP ONE RUNNERS-UP PLAY-OFF AGAINST GROUP TWO WINNERS TO DETERMINE WHO WILL ADVANCE TO ROUND TWO, GROUP ONE.

GROUP ONE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1-1	SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOLOMON ISLANDS	1-1	VANUATU
VANUATU	1-2	PAPUA NEW GUINEA

WINNERS PAPUA NEW GUINEA
RUNNERS-UP SOLOMON ISLANDS

GROUP TWO

TONGA	2-0	COOK ISLANDS
COOK ISLANDS	1-2	WESTERN SAMOA
WESTERN SAMOA	0-1	TONGA

WINNERS TONGA

PLAY-OFF

TONGA	0-4	SOLOMON ISLANDS
SOLOMON ISLANDS	9-0	TONGA

WINNERS SOLOMON ISLANDS (13-0 AGGREGATE)

round two

GROUP WINNERS ADVANCE TO THIRD ROUND PLAYOFF SERIES, THE WINNER OF THIS TO PLAY-OFF AGAINST THE FOURTH-PLACED TEAM IN THE ASIAN ZONE QUALIFYING SERIES.

GROUP ONE

AUSTRALIA	13-0	SOLOMON ISLANDS
AUSTRALIA	5-0	TAHITI
SOLOMON ISLANDS	4-1	TAHITI
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2-6	AUSTRALIA
TAHITI	0-2	AUSTRALIA
TAHITI	1-1	SOLOMON ISLANDS

WINNERS AUSTRALIA

GROUP TWO

PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1-0	NEW ZEALAND
FIJI	0-1	NEW ZEALAND
NEW ZEALAND	7-0	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
FIJI	3-1	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
NEW ZEALAND	5-0	FIJI
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	0-1	FIJI

WINNERS NEW ZEALAND

JUNIOR ALL WHITES®

EGYPT 97

The Junior All Whites, in qualifying for the FIFA Under 17 World Cup to be held in Egypt in September 1997, achieved one of New Zealand's greatest successes. To go even further requires a lot of time, effort and money.

At half-time there will be a collection for team funds.

Your generous support will be greatly appreciated. These lads have done a great job and deserve your support.

For any further information, phone Soccer New Zealand on (09) 525 6120.

THE JUNIOR ALL WHITES IN EGYPT

GROUP B

NEW ZEALAND, MALI, MEXICO, SPAIN

VERSUS MALI 6 SEPTEMBER 1997

VERSUS MEXICO 8 SEPTEMBER 1997

VERSUS SPAIN 11 SEPTEMBER 1997

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Well it sounds simple but you know how it is – it's hard to **make these choices and stick with them** . . . knowing isn't enough . . . doing is what it is all about.

That's where the Health Sponsorship Council fits in – we use brands like Smokefree to remind people about different choices they can make in life.

The brand speaks for itself – Smokefree **encourages** people not to fall into the **addictive trap** cigarette smoking offers. The thing about smoking is that it is a complete con . . . smoking is not about choice. Tobacco companies have worked hard to fool people, especially younger people, into thinking they're making an adult choice by choosing to smoke, that they look cool, older and sophisticated. **It's a con**.

The evil with tobacco is that it contains an addictive substance (nicotine) – once you're in, you're hooked and the element of choice is removed. People may think they can easily **kick the habit** in a couple of years, but the reality is it's a lot harder – it's in their system and it doesn't want to leave!!! Even if they're only having the odd cigarette now and then, the nicotine has taken a hold.

It's up to each and every one of us to decide for ourselves if we want to be sucked in. At the end of the day – **it's our choice** – we need to make it work for us.

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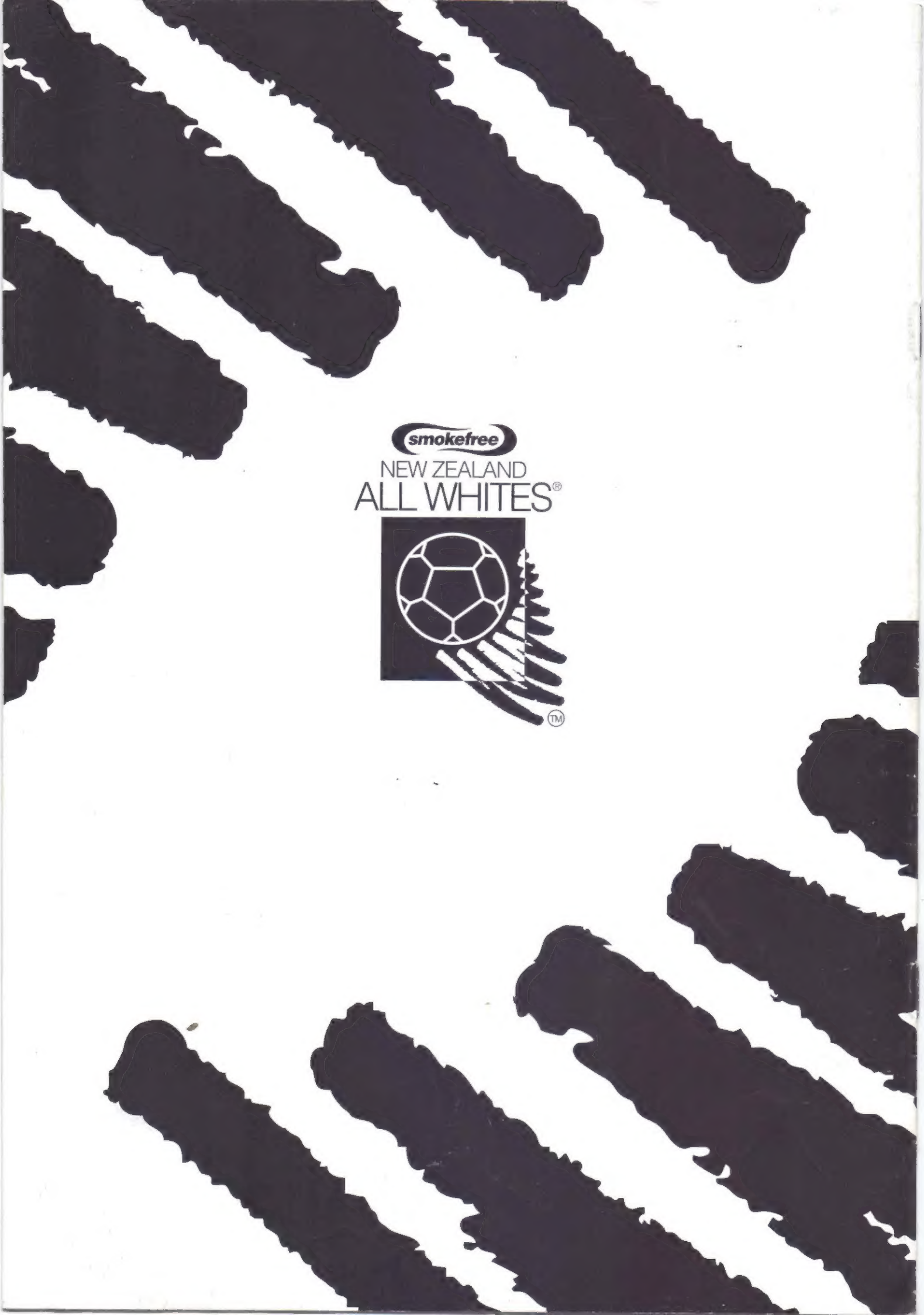
THE CHOICE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